

WEST VIRGINIA

Nationwide, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the arts. Thanks to historic investments, the NEA is helping the arts and cultural sector to recover, rebuild, and reopen. In 2020:

- Arts and cultural production in West Virginia added **1.7%** or **\$1.3 billion** to the state's economy.
- West Virginia's arts and cultural industries employed **13,865** workers. These workers earned wages and benefits totaling over **\$0.8 billion**.

GRANTS TO THE STATE

Over a five-year period (FY 2018-2022), the NEA distributed \$8,738,906 in federal funds to grant applicant organizations in this state, either directly or through state and regional partners.

The Arts Endowment awarded **51** direct grants throughout West Virginia over the past 5 years, totaling **\$6,588,215**. These direct grants included:

- The West Virginia Folklife Program's statewide fieldwork, research, and documentation of communities
- Music performances and educational programs related to an exhibit from the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame
- The Augusta Heritage Center's Traditional Arts Program at Davis & Elkins College

NEA NATIONAL INITIATIVES IN THE STATE

In addition to offering direct grants, the NEA supports national initiatives benefiting people across the country. Over the past five years:

Blue Star Museums program provided free admission to thousands of active military personnel and their families at **26** participating museums in West Virginia.

Poetry Out Loud program provided opportunities for an average of **3,732** students per year attending **117** unique high schools in West Virginia to appreciate—through study, memorization, and public recitation—great poetry.

The **NEA Big Read** program generated **11** community events focused on reading outstanding American literature and involving more than **1,386** adults and students in West Virginia.

